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STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023

Honoring National Freedom Day

WHEREAS, today marks *National Freedom Day*, a day that commemorates President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the joint resolution that established the Constitution's 13th Amendment abolishing slavery in the United States; and

WHEREAS, many people in the United States reflect on and remember the importance of freedom on National Freedom Day; and

WHEREAS, some educational institutions may incorporate themes relating to National Freedom Day as part of class discussions, readings, and other learning activities that explore the importance of the day and its history; and

WHEREAS, February 1 has been designated as National Freedom Day in the United States to celebrate and recognize the abolition of slavery and to acknowledge this joyful celebration across Erie County, New York State and the United States of America to fittingly note the contributions of African Americans throughout history; and

WHEREAS, National Freedom Day was founded by Major Richard Robert Wright, a former enslaved person who made remarkable contributions in education, banking, politics, civic affairs and real estate and became a post-reconstruction pioneer and trailblazer; and

WHEREAS, Wright also owned several newspapers and founded the National Freedom Day Association; and

WHEREAS, National Freedom Day is also a time to reflect on the struggles and victories of African Americans throughout our country's history; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the importance in diversity, peace, and the importance on fulfilling our Nation's great legacy of equality and opportunity for all to genuinely experience freedom and justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body hereby recognize February 1, 2023 as *National Freedom Day* and encourage all individuals to understand the importance of the 13th Amendment and to promote good feelings, harmony, and equal opportunity among all citizens and to remember that the United States is a nation dedicated to the ideal of freedom.

Hon. April N.M. Baskin
Erie County Legislator, 2nd District

Hon. Howard J. Johnson Jr.
Erie County Legislator, 1st District